



The World's Sixteen Crucified Saviors: Christianity Before Christ

Kersey Graves

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Khrisna of India. Thammuz of Syria. Esus of the Celtic Druids. Mithra of Persia. Quexalcoati of Mexico. All were crucified gods, and all met their fates hundreds of years before Jesus appeared on the scene. In this foundational work of modern atheism, American spiritualist KERSEY GRAVES (1813-1883) breaks the Christ myth down into its component parts and ably demonstrates how the story of Jesus has its roots in the depths of antiquity. Here you'll read about the surprising prevalence throughout global folklore of: . the miraculous and immaculate conception of the gods . stars that point out the time and place of a savior's birth . angels, shepherds, and magi visiting an infant savior . the 25th of December as the universal birth date of gods . saviors who descend into Hell . and much more. This is essential reading for students of comparative mythology and modern freethinkers. Also available from Cosimo: Graves's The Biography of Satan and The Bible of Bibles

The World's Sixteen Crucified Saviors: Christianity Before Christ Details

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From Reader Review The World's Sixteen Crucified Saviors: Christianity Before Christ for online ebook

Naomi Moore says

A real eye opener.

Reggie Parker says

A really good (and informative) read...

This book was very thought provoking. It's full of information on the origins and history of Christianity. I thought it bordered on atheism close to the end... but still... a good book...

Paul Krug says

This book contains fascinating history I had not been aware of. Written in 1875, it can be challenging reading at times. Nevertheless, the similarities between the various savior figures are remarkable. At times it seemed the author overreached--unnecessary given the subject matter. And he had a tendency to occupy the bully pulpit at other times, as if reveling in his self-perceived triumph. The book is worth reading. It's amazing to know how many historical figures were crucified, even between two thieves. Or born on December 25th of a virgin, with wise men bearing gifts having been foretold by the stars. Or descended into hell, only to later ascend into heaven. This and many other similarities add up to make their own case about the nature of shared myth. Perhaps not so much in the Joseph Campbell sense of archetypes, as much as by oral transmission from one society to another. I recommend reading this once at least, for the content if not for the writing.

Mizan Harun says

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Christina Vogel says

Many of his assertions are twisted and verses are misquoted to fit with his beliefs. While there's no doubt that other myths existed before the birth of Jesus, some of the inaccurate facts and overall bad assertions make me question the validity of anything he wrote. This is Some of the most irresponsible writing I have ever seen.

Mtoti says

didn't read yet but here is some else's review on it from Amazon:

Christians have heard this argument a thousand times, but few really know what people mean by saying that little in Christianity is original. This book provides you with the reasoning behind this claim in an exhaustive way. I found this book to be a much better choice than any of Robert Price's books because Price gets his ideas (or most of them) from this author. For a good counter-argument I recommend *The Jesus Legend* by Eddy and Boyd.

Scott says

While I agree with Mr. Graves about the similarities between Christ and the other martyred saviors of the world, the presentation was very dry, and most of which I have heard before (although his book was obviously printed first). I much preferred his work with the *Biography of Satan*.

Jim Bennett says

If you're looking for another view on religion, this book is an interesting place to start. There are in fact more than sixteen saviors in the world, but Graves' list is enough to widen one's viewpoint.

The book is in fact rather old, and its tone can be a bit, er, unlike modern books. It's as if the intellectual expected the reader to agree with him on the stupidity of others.

For that reason alone, I withheld the fifth star.

Readers should supplement this with some Joseph Campbell, who covers some of the same ground with a much broader social focus.

Still, an interesting read, especially if you find some modern religious dogma a bit, well, stiff. Here you will find other ideas and other, different beliefs. Different from ours, and yet similar.

Dave Sippel says

This was a deeply frustrating read for me. I have been curious about the supposed amalgamation of mythological and historical figures that "created" Jesus Christ. This seemed like a good place to start reading, but the lack of citations bothered me very much. I was a history major in college, and the professors constantly reminded us that citations and reference were beyond important in our profession. Part of me was intrigued to read a book on the subject from the POV of a 19th century author, but I couldn't help thinking that so much more had been learned about near eastern history and theology since 1875 that a modern book would have greater accuracy and insight.

Book says

One of the best books of its type. The author collected loads of folklore and mythology that predated Christianity to show that the story of Jesus was not original or unique but just one more slight variation.

Kane Cassidy says

This book is dated and it shows, I had to google a few of the listed figures to get a better understanding but when I did, I gained an immense understanding and the second reading was a breeze.

Brilliant work, eye-opening expose on how Christianity has borrowed from pre-existing religions. Richard Dawkins often asks theists to acknowledge their atheistic states regarding Gods like Zeus and Thor, after reading this I now ask Christians to prove to me that Zoroaster isn't my saviour, to excellent effect.

A must have for any atheist.

David Bevins says

This is a great reference to discover all the myths/stories in history that resemble the Christ figure.

However, the authors snarkiness just overwhelms me, hence two stars.

Toni Daugherty says

I knew of other religions claiming the same miracles but I had no idea there were so many exact miracles and exact characters since ancient orientalism. An eye-opener! Many of the miracles attributed to Jesus were probably stolen from ancient religions long before the Council of Nicea, when those few powerful men decided what would be in the great book or what would actually be god's word for the masses.

Super Marge says

One of the the most easy to understand books on the subject that I have ever read. It is to the point and considering that it was originally published in the late 1800's it takes no prisoners. No matter what you believe it is a must read.

Darin Simms says

Decent book. Not the easiest read, though. At times it seems preachy and smug (maybe a sign of the culture of the day it was written).

Historically, it is mostly accurate but he chooses to ignore some facts while overstating others. Also, in the nearly 150 years since this book was written, we have discovered more information, artifacts, & ancient writings that shed more light on this fascinating subject.

Overall, this is worth a read especially if you're interested in religion and religious development.
